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TAGS, AORG, PORG, AFIN, APER, UN

SUBJECT: ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FIFTH COMMITTEE AT 30TH UN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)

1. SUMMARY: WORK OF FIFTH (ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY)

COMMITTEE DURING 30TH UNGA WAS VOLUMINOUS AND COMPLEX, AND MARKED BY PARAMOUNTCY OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MANY DELEGATIONS, ALTHOUGH THIS IS MORE MUTED THAN IN MOST OTHER COMMITTEES. ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF COMMITTEE TIME WAS SPENT ON 1976/77 PROGRAM BUDGET; OTHER MAJOR ISSUES WERE UN FINANCIAL SITUATION, (UN EMERGENCY FORCE/UN DISENGAGEMENT OBSERVER FORCE) UNEF/UNDOF FINANCING, PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY, PROGRAM BUDGET MACHINERY, PENSIONS, PERSONNEL QUESTIONS, CONFERENCES, AND UNIDO. (EACH OF THESE IS DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL BELOW.) WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS (WEO) GROUP FUNCTIONED COMPARATIVELY WELL BOTH AS A FORMAL AND INFORMAL MEANS OF CONSULTATIONS. LATIN AMERICAN GROUP WAS THE MOST DISAPPOINTING. USSR AND CHINA HAD LIMITED INFLUENCE. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (ACABQ) GENERALLY MAINTAINED ITS TRADITIONAL ROLE OF FIFTH COMM-
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ITTEE'S MENTOR AND CONSCIENCE BUT PRESSURES TO LIMIT ITS INFLUENCE

ARE GROWING HEAVIER. USDEL CONTINUED TO PLAY SIGNIFICANT PART IN IN COMMITTEE WORK BUT PRIMARILY BEHIND THE SCENES AND THROUGH FRIENDLY DELS. THIS MESSAGE IS PRESENTED IN FOUR PARTS: (1) AN INTRODUCTION (PARAS 2 THROUGH 5); (2) SUBSTANTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND PROBLEMS (PARAS 6 THROUGH 20); (3) REGIONAL AND OTHER GROUPS IN FIFTH COMMITTEE (PARAS 21 THROUGH 30); AND (4) FUTURE TRENDS (PARAS 31 AND 32. END SUMMARY

2. INTRODUCTION

FIFTH (ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY) COMMITTEE DURING 30TH UNGA WAS ALLOCATED 14 AGENDA ITEMS. UNDER 1976/77 PROGRAM BUDGET ITEM ALONE THERE WERE 29 SECTIONS AND 19 SUB-ITEMS, WHILE OTHER AGENDA ITEMS ALSO HAD NUMEROUS SUB-ITEMS. THE COMMITTEE ADOPTED 30 RESOLUTIONS, SEVEN FORMAL DECISIONS, AND 188 INFORMAL DECISIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS. THUS THE VOLUME, BREADTH, AND COMPLEXITY OF COMMITTEE WORK CONTINUED TO INCREASE, WHILE ITS WORK WAS PROGRESSIVELY COMPLICATED BY INTRODUCTION OF POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. LDC MAJORITY PRESSED FOR INCREASED EXPENDITURE BY UN IN NAME OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IRRESPECTIVE OF ITS PURPOSE OR UTILITY. LDCS ALSO PRESSED FOR ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FAVORING LDCS AND FOR MORE LDC STAFF ESPECIALLY IN POLICY POSITIONS.

3. FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN OF COMMITTEE WAS REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF UN PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 1976-77 WHICH, DUE LARGELY TO IMPACT OF WORLD-WIDE INFLATION AND CURRENCY INSTABILITY, WAS 38 PERCENT LARGER THAN THAT ORIGINALLY APPROVED FOR PREVIOUS BIENNIAL. TENUOUS FINANCIAL SITUATION OF UN, AGGRAVATED BY ABOVE, BECAME MORE WIDELY RECOGNIZED AND PERMEATED MUCH OF COMMITTEE'S WORK.

4. USDEL ATTEMPTED TO MAINTAIN BALANCE THROUGHOUT COMMITTEE SESSION BY MAKING ITS VIEWS CLEAR ON VARIOUS ISSUES (ALTHOUGH WE FOUND OURSELVES USUALLY IN THE MINORITY), WHILE AT SAME TIME WORKING WITH OTHER DELS BEHIND SCENES TO REACH ACCEPTABLE COMPROMISE DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS. OUR POSITION, THEREFORE, WAS NOT DIS-SIMILAR TO THAT AT PREVIOUS UNGA. OTHER ACTIVE DELS IN COMMITTEE RESPECT SUBSTANTIVE KNOWLEDGE OF USDEL, FREQUENTLY SEEK US OUT IN PRIVATE AND MAKE GENUINE EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE OUR VIEW; PUBLICLY (EXCEPT FOR FEW SUCH AS FRG, UK, ETC.) THEY KEEP THEIR DISTANCE FROM US AND OFTEN OPENLY CHALLENGE US. WE SOUGHT TO PROMOTE US

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INTERESTS BY MAINTAINING OUR INFLUENCE IN THE COMMITTEE WITHOUT UNNECESSARILY COMPROMISING OUR FUNDAMENTAL CONCERN FOR EFFICIENCY, ECONOMY, AND EFFECTIVENESS IN UN OPERATIONS.

5. CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE WAS CHRISTOPHER THOMAS (TRINIDAD AND TO-BAGO) WHO WON FAVOR FROM VIRTUALLY ALL DELS FOR HIS FAIRNESS, UNFAILING COURTESY AND FIRMNESS WHEN REQUIRED, AS WELL AS HIS COMMEND OF THE SUBJECT MATTER.

6. PROGRAM BUDGET 1976-77

SINCE 1975 WAS A QTE BUDGET YEAR, UNQTE ROUGHLY 60 PERCENT OF THE SESSION OF FIFTH COMMITTEE WAS DEVOTED TO REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SYG'S PROPOSALS CONTAINED IN LARGER THAN EVER VOLUME OF DOCUMENTATION. IN ONLY A FEW INSTANCES (E.G. FUNDS FOR UNCTAD, EXPANSION OF DISARMAMENT DIVISION, AND STAFFING OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT) DID FIFTH COMMITTEE REJECT RECOMMENDATIONS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS (ACABQ) EVEN THOUGH THIS EXPERT BODY WAS SUBJECTED IN GENERAL TO MORE THAN USUAL CRITICISM, ESPECIALLY BY VOCAL LDC DELS. ACABQ HAD NOT HOWEVER, RECOMMENDED REDUCTIONS IN SYG'S INITIAL REQUEST THIS YEAR OF EQUAL MAGNITUDE TO THOSE IN 1973 WHEN FIFTH COMMITTEE MORE OFTEN DEVIATED FROM ACABQ. ALTHOUGH THIS AND OTHER FACTORS (E.G., LDC CHAIRMAN OF ACABQ, RESPONSIBLE ROLE OF UPPER VOLTAN DEL IN FIFTH COMMITTEE, ETC.) PRESERVED CREDIBILITY OF ACABQ, GREATER PRESSURE IS INCREASINGLY BEING PUT ON THAT BODY TO BE LESS AUSTERE BY UN SECRETARIAT, OTHER UNGA COMMITTEES, AND DELS WHO FOR WHATEVER REASONS ARE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO TAKE HARD BUDGETARY DECISIONS. COUPLED WITH INFLATIONARY AND CURRENCY PRESSURES, RESULT IS SIGNIFICANT GROWTH IN ABSOLUTE TERMS IN UN PROGRAM BUDGET FOR NEXT BIENNIAL.

7. SUCCESSFUL MOVE TO GET SYG TO REDUCE BY TWO PERCENTAGE POINTS THE RATE OF INFLATION PROJECTED IN BUDGET REQUEST FOR 1976 -- LED BY WEO DELS AND SUPPORTED BY MORE RESPONSIBLE LDC DELS -- WAS CLEARLY IN LINE WITH US OBJECTIVE, ALTHOUGH SHORT OF MAXIMUM WE SOUGHT. WHILE RESULTING BUDGETARY REDUCTION WAS COMPARATIVELY SMALL, PERCENTAGE WAS ESTABLISHED WHICH MAY BE QUITE USEFUL IN FUTURE.

8. AS IN PAST, THE USSR MAINTAINED AN EXTREME NEGATIVE POSITION ON BUDGET WHICH RESULTED IN ITS HAVING LITTLE IF ANY IMPACT ON COMMITTEE DECISIONS. AS IN THE PAST, UNDEL WAS PRIVATELY CRITICIZED BY

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SOVIETS FOR NOT IDENTIFYING ENTIRELY WITH LATTER'S POSITION. IN FACT, US POSITION WAS CLOSE ENOUGH TO SOVIET THAT USDEL HAD TO TAKE CARE TO AVOID BEING LUMPED BY COMMITTEE MAJORITY WITH SOVIETS, WHICH COULD HAVE SERIOUSLY DAMAGED WHAT INFLUENCE WE HAVE IN THE COMMITTEE. WEO DELS SUCH AS UK, FRG, AND JAPAN WERE EQUALLY SENSITIVE (SOMETIMES TOO SENSITIVE IN FACT) TO THIS CONCERN A SOVIET-BACKED CUBAN INITIATIVE WAS ONCE AGAIN PUT FORWARD TO MAKE US PAY FOR MOST OF CURRENCY INSTABILITY AND INFLATION COSTS IN BUDGET. AGAIN IT GOT VERY LITTLE SUPPORT, DESPITE FACT IT WAS DRESSED UP THIS YEAR IN A LESS OUTRAGEOUS FORMULA AND LIP SERVICE WAS PAID TO ARTICLE 17 OF THE CHARTER.

9. FINANCIAL SITUATION

DECISION TO ESTABLISH A QTE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE UNQTE ON UN FINANCIAL SITUATION AND MANEUVERINGS WHICH PRECEDED THAT DECISION

WERE IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE. LETTER OF 27 DELS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND REPLY BY SECRETARIAT CLEARLY PLACED PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY ON SOVIETS AND OTHER DEFAULTERS WHICH WAS UNDERSTOOD BY PRACTICALLY ALL DELS. FINAL LIST OF 35 CO-SPONSORS OF COMMITTEE RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED IN PLENARY 119 (US)-0-12, INDICATED FOR FIRST TIME A COMMITMENT ON PART OF A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE UN FINANCIAL SITUATION. COMMITTEE, TO BE COMPOSED OF 54 MEMBERS, IS CHARGED WITH FORMULATING A QTE COMPREHENSIVE UNQTE SOLUTION TO PROBLEM AND TO REPORT TO NEXT UNGA ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION.

10. UNEF/UNDOF FINANCING

APPROPRIATIONS TO FUND UNEF FOR ANOTHER YEAR AND APPROPRIATIONS/- AUTHORIZATION FOR UNDOF FOR SIMILAR PERIOD WERE APPROVED BY COMMITTEE WITH MINIMAL DIFFICULTY DESPITE SOME QUIBBLING BY SOVIETS. REASONS WERE (A) CAPABLE LEAD ROLE PLAYED BY CANADA, AT US REQUEST, IN PERSON OF AMB. ANGUS MATHESON;

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(B) EARLY CONSULTATIONS INITIATED BY US/CANADIAN DELS WITH OTHER DELS FIRST IN WEO AND THEN WITH INFLUENTIAL LDC'S; (C) CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN US/EGYPT AND US/ISRAEL; AND (D) EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION GATHERING IN ACABQ

WHICH TOOK MUCH OF WIND OUT OF SOVIET SAILS. IN ABSENCE OF MOVEMENT TOWARD POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND PARTICULARLY AS FORCE COSTS INCREASE, OUR CHANCES OF MAINTAINING PRESENT FINANCING FORMULA ARE LIKELY TO DECLINE.

11. PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY

DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT TOOK AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF COMMITTEE'S TIME AND RESULTED, IN ADDITION TO RHETORICAL BARRAGE, IN ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 3535, WHICH USDEL STRONGLY OPPOSED. SIXTH PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH OF RESOLUTION, WHICH STATES BADLY THAT GOAL IS TO QTE IMPROVE PUBLIC IMAGE UNQTE OF UN, SMACKS OF PROPAGANDIZING --I.E., THE COVER-UP OF ORGANIZATIONS' WEAKNESSES AND THE EXAGGERATION OF ITS STRENGTHS, AS DEFINED BY MAJORITY, TO POINT WHERE ALL BALANCE AND OBJECTIVITY MAY BE LOST IN UN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES.

12. FIRST OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH PROBABLY WILL BE CITED IN FUTURE TO JUSTIFY SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAM AND BUDGETARY INCREASES FOR

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OPI (OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION) WHILE THIRD OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH REPSENTED A THINLY VEILED TUNISIAN EFFORT TO GET ITEM TRANSFERRED TO A QTE POLITICAL COMMITTEE UNQTE. LATTER PROPOSAL WAS STRONGLY BACKED BY SOVIET BLOC AND COULD EASILY LEAD TO INCREASING PRESSURE TO SPEND MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF MONEY ON SLANTED PROPAGANDA, RATHER THAN ON REPORTING FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT UN ACTIVITIES.

13. PROGRAM BUDGET MACHINERY

DECISION OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT IN GENERAL DEBATE ON PROGRAM BUDGET RESULTED IN A MUCH MORE THOROUGH DISCUSSION THAN WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE TAKEN PLACE. SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT WAS OBTAINED FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORKING GROUP ON BUDGET MACHINERY WHICH MET EARLIER IN THE YEAR. MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE WERE: INCREASING MANDATE OF COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAM AND COORDINATION (CPC) TO REVIEW MEDIUM-TERM PLAN; DESIRABILITY OF FURTHER DEVELOPING UN PROGRAM EVALUATION; AND INTENTION TO DEAL WITH SUBJECT IN DEPTH AT 31 ST UNGA UNDER SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM.

14. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION SHOWED THAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF DELS RECOGNIZED NEED TO ADAPT PROCEDURES FOR QTE FORMULATION, REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PROGRAMS AND BUDGETS UNQTE TO PRESENT SITUATION WITHIN UN AND TO TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE BETTER UTILIZATION OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES. RESOLUTION 3534 ON PRESENTATION OF PROGRAM BUDGET, SPONSORED BY POLAND WITH US SUPPORT, FURTHER BUTTRESSED EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION. EXISTING PROCEDURES AND ANY POSSIBLE CHANGES THEREIN WERE ALSO LINKED TO POSSIBLE RESTRUCTURING OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTOR OF UN SYSTEM.

15. PENSIONS

OPERATION OF UN PENSION FUND IS COMING UNDER CLOSER SCRUTINY OF FIFTH COMMITTEE WHICH IS INTERJECTING POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS; IN PAST THE LARGEY APOLITICAL PENSION BOARD HAS HAD ALMOST EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY. FOR EXAMPLE, FUND INVESTMENT POLICY WAS ATTACKED BY SOVIET BLOC AND MORE RADICAL LDC'S FOR IGNORING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN LDC'S AND FOR LEADING TO HUGE CURRENCY FLUCTUATION LOSSES. GEOGRAPHICAL IMBALANCE (HEAVILY WESTERN) IN COMPOSITION OF BOARD WAS ALSO CHALLENGED. USDEL, ALONG WITH

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FRG AND UK, FORCEFULLY ARGUED FOR BUSINESS-LIKE APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT OF FUND ALTHOUGH WE WERE CLEARLY IN MINORITY. PRESSURE FOR POLITICIZATION OF UND MAY WELL INTENSIFY.

16. PERSONNEL QUESTIONS

COMMITTEE DID NOT TACKLE HEAD-ON QUESTION OF CHANGING NUMERICAL FORMULA FOR ALLOCATING UN POSTS SUBJECT TO GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION. HOWEVER, AN IRANIAN PROPOSAL TO INCREASE LDC REPRESENTATION AT SENIOR LEVELS(RESOLUTION 3 17A) WAS ADOPTED BY A LARGE MAJORITY, WITH ONLY US, UK, FRANCE, AND SOVIET BLOC OPPOSING. A JAPANESE-SPONSORED RESOLUTION (3417B) URGING INCREASED RECRUITMENT FROM UNREPRESENTED AND UNDER-REPRESENTED COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY LDC'S, PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION. STATUS OF WOMEN IN UN SECRETARIAT WAS PROMINENTLY FEATURED AS A RESULT OF A STRONG AUSTRALIAN INTERVENTION AND A DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH LATER WAS WATERED DOWN BY G-77. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE LDC SUSPICION THAT SOME WEO'S, AND EVEN A FEW FROM THEIR OWN CAMP, WERE USING WOMEN'S ISSUE AS A WAY OF STRENGTHENING THEIR ALREADY OVER-REPRESENTED SECRETARIAT POSITION.

17. PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

ALGERIA AND OTHER LDC'S EMERGED SURPRISINGLY AS CHAMPIONS OF COMMITTEEON CONFERENCES (C/C) IN FACE OF AN ILL-CONCEIVED UK EFFORT TO ABOLISH C/C AND SOME STRONG CRITICISM OF IT ESPECIALLY BY SUCH OTHER DELS AS FRANCE AND FRG. HOWEVER, FIFTH COMMITTEE DID NOTHING TO STRENGTHEN C/C'S MANDATE OR TO MAKE ITS WORK EASIER, AND EVEN C/S'S MOST ARDENT DEFENDERS COULD NOT POINT TO SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ITS FIRST YEAR OF LIFE. ITEM ON VIENNA AS A THIRD UN CITY, DISCUSSED UNDER THIS AGENDA ITEM, REVEALED LITTLE DISACCORD NOW, BUT SHARP DIFFERENCES ARE BOUND TO EMERGE LATER WHEN HARD DECISIONS HAVE TO BE MADE ON WHICH UN UNITS WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO VIENNA.

18. UNCTAD

A CLEAR EXAMPLE OF IRRESPONSIBILTY IN FIFTH COMMITTEE WAS HANDLING OF REVISED ESTIMATES RESULTING FROM DECISION OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB). THIS ACTION UNDOUBTEDLY STEMMED FROM DESIRE

OF LDC'S, WHO CONSIDER UNCTAD TO BE THEIR VOICE WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT, TO GIVE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT WHATEVER IT WANTS.

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LED BY COLOMBIAN DEL, COMMITTEE DECIDED TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS, PRIMARILY FOR CONSULTANTS FOR UNCTAD ACTIVITIES CONCERNED WITH DEBT PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ACABQ HAD STRONGLY RECOMMENDED AGAINST APPROVAL OF THESE FUNDS SINCE REQUIREMENTS WERE NOT KNOWN AND PROPER APPROACH WOULD BE FOR SYG TO REQUEST THESE FUNDS, IF LATER REQUIRED, UNDER TERMS OF RESOLUTION ON QTE UNFORESEEN AND EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES. UNQTE NEVERTHELESS, LDC'S ARGUED THAT THEY, VIA TDB, HAD TAKEN A POLITICAL DECISION AND IT WAS TASK OF FIFTH COMMITTEE TO ENDORSE THAT DECISION, IRRESPECTIVE OF LOGIC OR FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS.

19. UNIDO PROGRAM BUDGET

ALTHOUGH AN INTEGRAL PART OF SYG'S PROGRAM BUDGET, FIFTH COMMITTEE TREATED UNIDO SEPARATELY SINCE SYG'S ORIGINAL PROPOSALS WERE REVISED AND PRESENTED TO COMMITTEE ONLY AT END OF SESSION. EXDIRECTOR KHANE'S STRATEGY, PLAYED OUT IN NEW YORK BY AFIFI, WAS TO CIRCUMVENT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD (IDB), UN HEADQUARTERS AND ACABQ BY APPEALING TO LDC MAJORITY OF POLITICAL GROUNDS IN FIFTH COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN APPROPRIATIONS HE DESIRED. HOWEVER, UN HEADQUARTERS ROSE TO CHALLENGE TO DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, ACABQ OPENLY CHALLENGED KHANE'S APPROACH AND SUBSTANCE OF PROGRAM BUDGET SUBMISSION.

20. IN ADDITION TO SUBMITTING HIGHLY CRITICAL REPORT, ACABQ CHAIRMAN WAS OPENLY BLUNT AND HARSH IN COMMITTEE ON UNDIO'S PROPOSALS FOR THEIR LACK OF JUSTIFICATIONS, INCOMPLETENESS, INCONSISTENCY, ETC. LED BY ALGERIAN AND UPPER VOLTAN DELS WITH STRONG BEHIND-THE SCENES SUPPORT FROM USDEL, COMMITTEE ADOPTED BY

WIDE MAJORITY RESOLUTION 3533 WHICH ENDORSED RECOMMENDATION OF ACABQ AND CALLED ON SYG TO SUBMIT NEW PROPOSAL TO UNGA AT 31ST SESSION. IMPACT OF COMMITTEE ACTION WAS TO DEAL HEAVY BLOW TO UNIDO'S ATTEMPT TO CIRCUMVENT ESTABLISHED UN PROGRAM BUDGET PROCEDURES AND ESTABLISH INDEPENDENT MODE OF OPERATION. FROM US VIEWPOINT, COMMITTEE ACTION WAS HIGHLY RESPONSIBLE AND CONSISTENT WITH OUR LONG-HELD OBJECTIVE OF RESISTING MOVE FOR AUTONOMY BY UNIDO (AS WELL AS OTHER SECRETARIAT UNITS) SO LONG AS IT REMAINS AN INTEGRAL PART OF UN SECRETARIAT.

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21. RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPEANS AND OTHERS

FIFTH COMMITTEE WEO GROUP HELD REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING WHICH WERE WELL ATTENDED THROUGHOUT SESSION. (US AND JAPAN WERE ALWAYS PRESENT AND ACTIVE; MALTESE WERE EXCLUDED BY DESIGN TWO YEARS AGO.) AUSTRALIANS AND NEW ZEALANDERS (WITH HELP FROM CANADA) WERE

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ESPECIALLY ACTIVE IN COMITE AND WERE SUCCESSFUL SEVERAL TIMES IN MOBILIZING LDC SUPPORT FOR VARIOUS PROPOSALS OF INTEREST TO WEOS AS A WHOLE. SPANISH, AS IN PAST, PLAYED LITTLE PART EITHER IN WEO OR COMITE ACTIVITIES. GREEK REP WAS HYPER-ACTIVE AND OFTEN OBTUSE; PORTUGAL WAS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN UNEF QUESTION.

22. AMONG EC-9, BRITISH AND GERMANS WERE, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, CLOSEST AND ABLEST SUPPORTERS OF US POSITION, AND VICE VERSA. FRENCH FREQUENTLY WERE WITH US, BUT ON OCCASION VERY ABLY WORKED AGAINST US. AS USUAL, ITILIANS VACILLATED MUCH OF TIME, ALTHOUGH THEIR POSITION AS EC-9 CHAIRMAN FORCED THEM INTO MORE RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS ON SEVERAL KEY ISSUES. ENERGETIC BELGIAN REP (PIRSON) EARLY ESTABLISHED HIMSELF POSITION AS A WELL-BRIEFED GADFLY BOTH IN WEO AND FIFTH COMITE PRESSING RELENTLESSLY FOR THRIFT IN EVERY

NOOK AND CRANNY OF THE BUDGET. OVERALL, INCREASED CONCERTATION BY EC-9 RESULTED IN THEIR REACHING LEAST COMMON DENOMINATOR POSITION--MUCH TO CONSTERNATION OF FRG AND UK BUT SATISFYING TO FRENCH AND DUTCH.

23. NORDIC GROUP, CONSIDERING ITS PROFESSED INTEREST IN
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SUPPORTING STRONGER UN, WAS SINGULARLY INEFFECTIVE. SWEDE (LELLKI), WHO HAS COVERED FIFTH COMITE FOR MANY YEARS, WAS QUIET AND DETACHED, EXCEPT FOR OCCAIONAL BLAND INTERVENTIONS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS DEL'S SYMPATHY WITH LDCS. DANES AND NORWEGIANS CONTINUED THEIR RECENT PRACTICE OF DISCONTINUITY BY STAFFING THEIR DELS WITH A SERIES OF LESS THAN KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS, NONE OF WHOM STAYED THROUGHOUT SESSION.

24. USDEL, BOTH IN GROUP MEETINGS AND PRIVATELY, WAS ABLE TO BRING SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE TO BEAR ON WEO DELS; THERE WAS RECIPROCAL CONSULTATION WITH MAJOR WEO DELS ON MOST ISSUES (ONLY IMPORTANT EXCEPTION FOR OUR PART BEING OUR PRECIPITOUS REJECTION OF ACABQ RECOMMENDATION ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL SECRETARIAT).

25. EASTERN EUROPE
SOVIET DEL EXHIBITED ITS USUAL EXTREME PARSIMONY, BULLHEADEDNESS, AND PARANOIA. IT CONSTANTLY REPEATED A FEW STANDARD THEMES (UNACCEPTABILITY OF CHARGING FOR INFLATION COSTS IN BUDGET, NEED FOR LARGE-SCALE REDUCTIONS IN STAFF) TO THE POINT THAT FEW DELEGATES PAID ATTENTION TO SOVIET STATEMENTS, EVEN THE MORE SIGNIFICANT ONES. APART FROM POLAND, NONE OF SOVIET BLOC DELS MADE ANY EFFORT TO CONSULT WITH OTHERS OR TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR THEIR PROPOSALS; POLES, HOWEVER, ACTIVELY CONSULTED WITH OTHERS, ESPECIALLY WITH US, AND MADE SERIOUS AND SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO FIND COMMON GROUND ON SEVERAL SECONDARY BUT NOT UNIMPORTANT ISSUES. IN VOTING, HOWEVER, POLAND TOOK ITS CUE FROM SOVIETS AND SELDOM WAS ALLOWED TO DIVERGE. ROMANIA, WHICH OFTEN VOTED DIFFERENTLY FROM SOVIETS, WAS RELATIVELY INACTIVE IN COMITE, AS WAS YUGOSLAVIA.

26. CHINA

CHINESE DEL WAS NEVER ABSENT, BUT SPOKE ONLY ON RARE OCCASIONS. WHEN IT DID, STATEMENTS WERE SHORT, TO THE POINT, AND A REPEAT OF STANDARD CHINESE POLICY IN OPPOSITION TO SPECIFIC UN ACTIVITIES. CHINESE MADE NO EFFORT TO FIND COMMON GROUND WITH OTHER DELS ON ANY SUBJECT, REMAINING ALOOF AND INEFFECTIVE.

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27. LATIN AMERICA

PERFORMANCE OF THE FEW LATIN AMERICAN DELS IN FIFTH COMITE WHICH STIRRED THEMSELVES INTO ACTIVITY WAS THE MOST DIS-APPOINTING OF ALL. THE VETERAN AND ABLE BRAZILIAN REP DA MOTA WAS NO LONGER ON THE SCENE; HIS REPLACEMENT MASCARENHAS TRIED ONLY TO BE AMUSING AND MADE NO SERIOUS CONTRIBUTION WHATEVER. ARGENTINA'S REPRESENTATION ALSO WAS WEAKER THAN IN THE PAST. FOR MEXICO'S RELATIVE INACTIVITY WE CAN PERHAPS BE THANKFUL. THE SINGLE MOST DESTRUCTIVE FORCE IN THE COMITE WAS MADAME DE ZOA OF COLOMBIA WHO CONSTANTLY LOBBIED LATINS AND OTHER LDCS ON A VARIETY OF ILL-FOUNDED PROPOSALS, A COLOMBIAN ROLE IN SHARP CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS YEARS. UNFORTUNATELY, SHE WAS USUALLY ABLE TO OBTAIN ARDENT SUPPORT FOR HER IDEAS FROM MOST OTHER LA DELS AS WELL AS THE MORE RADICAL LDC NON-LATINS.

28. AFRICA

IN ABSENCE OF AMB KITI (KENYA), LEADERSHIP OF AFRICAN GROUP FELL TO AMB OUEDRAOGO (UPPER VOLTA), WHO EVOLVED INTO ONE OF THE STRONGEST AND MOST RESPONSIBLE PERSONALITIES IN THE COMITE. HE ARGUED FOR REASON AND OBJECTIVITY, ALWAYS FORCEFULLY SPEAKING OUT ON ISSUES, AND CHALLENGING WHEN HE FELT NECESSARY OTHER AFRICAN AS WELL AS ANTICIPATED LDC POSITIONS; HE FREQUENTLY WORKED HARD TO CHECKMATE DE ZEA, SHOWED PARTICULAR COURAGE AND INFORMED ZEAL ON UNIDO ISSUE, AND MAINTAINED EXCELLENT RAPPORT WITH USDEL. ONLY OTHER AFRICAN DELEGATE REMOTELY COMMENRATE WITH OUEDRAOGO WAS OKEYO OF KENYA; MOST OTHERS WERE INACTIVE, IRRESPONSIBLE OR BOTH.

29. ASIA

ASEAN DELS, ESPECIALLY SINGAPORE, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND PHILIPPINES, WERE MUCH MORE VIABLE AS A GROUP THAN LAS YEAR. THEY ACTIVELY SUPPORTED SEVERAL WESTERN INITIATIVES CONCERNING PERSONNEL QUESTIONS, UN FINANCIAL SITUATION, AND PROGRAM BUDGET. PHILIPPINE REP (GARRIDO) WAS A VOICE OF REASON AND RESPONSIBILITY AND SENSITIVE TO WEO CONCERNS, WHILE PRESENCE OF HIS ASEAN COLLEAGUES WAS MUCH MORE CONSPICUOUS THAN IN PAST. AMONG OTHER ASIAN DELS, PAKISTANI DEL (KEMAL) WAS PARTICULARLY REASONABLE AND EXERCISED RESTRAINT AT CRUCIAL CONFIDENTIAL
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MOMENTS; HE DELIVERED AN ELOQUENT SPEECH IN SUPPORT OF COMITE RES ON UN FINANCILA SITUATION. INDIAN REP (SETHI) CONTINUED HIS UNPREDICTABLE WAYS, ACTING SOMETIMES AS A PROFESS-ORIAL THEORETICIAN OR AS AN EMOTIONAL HOTHEAD, BUT AT OTHER TIMES WITH GREAT RESTRAINT AND GOOD JUDGMENT.

30. ARABS

AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, GROUP SOLIDARITY WAS EVIDENT ON ONLY A FEW ISSUES--USE OF ARABIC LANGUAGE IN UN BODIES, EXPANDED PROGRAM FOR ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA, AND UNEF/UNDOF FINANCING. ON LATTER, EGYPTIAN DEL (RAPPORTEUR ABOUL GHEIT) ACTED AS SPOKESMAN FOR ARABS AND CONSULTED EARLY AND CONTINUOUSLY WITH USDEL (AS WELL AS ON OTHERI ISSUES) IN ORDER TO MIMIMIZE DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING WIDESPREAD COMITE SUPPORT FOR WEO (CANADIAN/US) DRAFT RES. IRAQI DEL SPOKE OFTEN AND USUALLY WITH A STRONG ANTI-WESTERN (EXPECIALLY US) THEME ALTHOUGH HIS DEL'S INFLUENCE IN COMITE WAS MARGINAL AT BEST. THE MOT VOCAL DELEGATE IN THE COMITE WAS ALGERIS'S IMPUDENT BUT KNOWLEDGEABLE DEPPERMREP BOUYAD AGHA. HE OFTEN SOUGHT TO SPEAK FOR THE G-77, AND ALSO LIKED TO IDENTIFY WITH THE AFRICAN GROUP IN PARTICULAR. HE BRANDISHED HIS ANTI-IMPERIALIST CREDENTIALS WHENEVER IT SEEMED EXPEDIENT BUT TREATED THE SOVIETS AS LARGEY IRRELEVANT. THE COMITE MAJORITY APPEARED TO RESPECT HIM AS A LEADER IF NOT THE LEADER. HE KEPT HIS LINES OPEN TO WEOS AND MODERATE LDC DELS AND OFTEN BACKED DOWN FROM EXTREME POSITIONS TO WORK FOR BROAD COMITE AGREEMENTS. HIS OPPOSITION TO UNIDO EFFORT TO STEAMROLLER THROUGH ITS BUDGET PROPOSALS WAS NOTEWORTHY.

31. FUTURE

PROBABLY MORE THAN ANY COMITE OF UNGA, FIFTH COMITE IS ONLY AS GOOD AS (OR AS BAD AS) INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIVES WHICH SIT IN IT. GREAT MAJORITY OF DELS HAVE SIMPLE INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND ARE GIVEN WIDE DISCRETION TO DETERMINE THEIR POSITION ON MOST ISSUES. HOWEVER, RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEE REQUIRES EXTENSIVE KNOWLEDGE, HARD WORK, AND ABILITY TO DEAL WITH WIDE RANGE OF HIGHLY TECHNICAL SUBJECTS. QUALIFICATIONS OF DELS RUNS FROM INFORMED (15 PERCENT) TO AWARE (25 PERCENT) TO UNINFORMED
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(60 PERCENT). PAST FEW YEARS HAVE WITNESSED NOTICEABLE DECREASE IN INFORMED ESPECIALLY AMONG WEOS AND LATINS) AND SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN UNINFORMED (LATINS, AFRICANS AND SOME WELS). POOR PREPARATION OF DELS IS PERHAPS NOT SERIOUSLY DETRIMENTAL AS LONG AS ACABQ CAN MAINTAIN ITS PRE-EMINENT POSITION IN FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE, AND BUDGETARY AREA. SO FAR IT HAS BEEN ABLE TO DO SO DESPITE LARGEY VEILED CHIPPING AWAY FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS. ITS VINDICATION BY FIFTH COMITE ON UNIDO ISSUE WAS CRITICAL TO ITS CONTINUED ROLE. FUTURE REMAINS UNCERTAIN AND WE PUT HIGHEST IMPORTANCE ON CONTINUED US SUPPORT FOR ACABQ.

32. DISRUPTIVE, IRRESPONSIBLE, AND POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

ELEMENTS. UNLESS COUNTERED BY OTHERS MAY WELL GAIN UPPER
HAND AND TO DETRIMENT OF US INTERESTS. US INFLUENCE IN
OPEN COMITE IS OBVIOUSLY LIMITED, BUT WE STILL ARE LISTENED
TO AND CARRY WEIGHT BEHIND-THE-SCENES. OUR ABILITY TO CONTINUE
TO DO SO TO LARGE EXTEND WILL BE DEPENDENT UPON REASONABLENESS
OF OUR POSITION. USDEL WAS SIGNIFICANTLY ASSISTED THIS YEAR
BY TIMELY AND FLEXIBLE GUIDANCE FROM DEPT.

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